

Welcome to the Third EAHN Meeting

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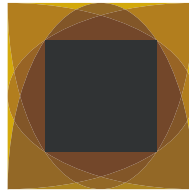
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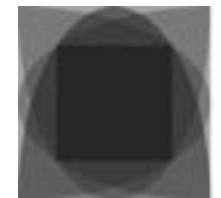
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EAHN
2014
torino

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY NETWORK
THIRD INTERNATIONAL MEETING
PROGRAMME AND TOURS

**CONNECTIONS BETWEEN
TEATRO REGIO
CASTELLO DEL VALENTINO
TORINO ESPOSIZIONI
AND CIRCOLO ERIDANO**



**EAHN
2014
torino**

**EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY NETWORK
THIRD INTERNATIONAL MEETING
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Welcome to the Third International EAHN Meeting in Turin

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After the two successful International Meetings in Guimarães (2010) and Brussels (2012), we are now gathering in Turin for our Third International Conference.

Turin, **“the nicest village in the world”** for Montesquieu, **“one-company town”** for so many 20th-century observers, has many histories that can speak for it. In the last fifteen years, Turin's cultural offer and its tourist accommodation capacity have widely increased. The city is reorganizing its economic identity also by promoting and being host to an array of cultural activities, exhibitions and conventions related to the cultural heritage, considered in its broad range of artistic, architectural, environmental assets and resources. World-famous events have reshaped Turin's public image. The Winter Olympic Games (2006), the exhibition of the Holy Shroud (2010), and the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy (2011), put much energy into the connection between mega-events and cultural elaboration, through an extensive programme of exhibitions, historic symposia and thematic itineraries.

Turin is home to a lively community of historians and has attracted the interest of architectural and urban historians during most of the 20th century.

The city's **baroque architecture** gained the early attention of scholars such as Albert Erich Brinckmann, who in 1931 dedicated to Turin and Piedmont his book *Theatrum novum Pedemontii: Ideen, Entwürfe und Bauten von Guarini, Juvarra, Vittone*. Studies on the capital city of Piedmont proliferated between the 1950s and the 1960s, thanks to the work of such European and North American scholars, as Henry Millon, Rudolf Wittkower, and Richard Pommer. These efforts were paralleled by the research work carried out in Turin by architectural and art historians such as Nino Carboneri, Mario Passanti, Andreina Griseri, and others. The attention for the architecture of Turin often went hand in hand with an interest for its **urban structure**: Turin was singled out by several scholars as an especially relevant example of European capital city characterized by a uniform, carefully

organized built landscape. The listing of the circuit of the Royal Residences as a World Heritage Site in 1997, has recognized the importance of this organization well beyond the boundaries of the city walls.

In more recent years, the attention to the baroque architecture of Turin was complemented by an interest for its modern buildings. The **architecture of 19th-century Turin** came to be considered as a significant example of the civic potential of national historicism and the work of Alessandro Antonelli (including his 167-metres tall Mole Antonelliana) was analyzed and discussed as one of the most interesting European attempts to pursue a deep rationalization of traditional building techniques.

Turin has often been seen as one of the birthplaces of **architectural modernism** in Italy, thanks to the favourable context provided by its industrialization. The Fiat Lingotto factory, mostly built between 1916 and 1926, became an icon of European concrete architecture. The presence in the city of such architects and critics as Giuseppe Pagano and Edoardo Persico helped opening the debates on architecture and the city to the influence of European modernism.

After WWII, the city rose to national prominence as one of the leading centres of Italian architectural culture, where architects like Roberto Gabetti and Aimaro Isola and urban planners like Giovanni Astengo led the path towards a revision of modernist architectural paradigms.

Preparations for the Turin Meeting started two years ago. The call for sessions and roundtables launched in the summer 2012 far exceeded the Committees' expectations: we received 100 proposals of which 27 were selected. These made up the call for papers that yielded more than 500 abstracts. Thanks to this exceptional response, 3 open sessions were activated.

In addition to this, and in order to encourage an exchange between the main research topics addressed by the international scholarly community and the studies conducted by younger and emerging scholars within the Italian PhD programs, the local Executive Committee, in accordance with the Advisory Committee of the Meeting, chose to promote two roundtables exclusively devoted to the presentation of studies recently carried on in **PhD programs affiliated to Italian Universities**. The aim of this initiative was to overcome the difficulties that often obstacle the dissemination of some of the most promising outputs of Italian doctoral programs by providing them with a truly international arena of discussion. This further call resulted in 37 proposals of which 15 were selected.

The EAHN Third International Meeting consists of **157 papers** and discussion positions arranged in **27 sessions** and **5 roundtables**, involving 176

speakers and 50 respondents. In order to ensure that sessions appealing to the same kind of audience were not scheduled in the same slot, we loosely organized them in **6 tracks**: "Early Modern", "Representation and Communication", "Questions of Methodology", "Theoretical and Critical Issues", "20th Century", and "Circulation of Architectural Cultures and Practices". These will then be presented in consecutive rather than parallel sequences so as to give participants the possibility to attend an entire track.

Coherently with the two past editions, EAHN 2014 confirms and strengthens the wide international resonance of the EAHN biannual Meetings and again promises to be a global forum of discussion, attracting scholars who are eager to share the results of their work in an event that brings them all together. We have participants from **37 countries** including USA, by far the most represented country, with 52 participants affiliated to American universities, followed by Italy (35), UK (17), and at a distance, Australia, France, Portugal, Belgium, Ireland, Poland, Israel, Slovenia, Switzerland, Croatia, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Brazil, Chile, Greece, Serbia, Canada, Estonia, Norway, Spain, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Austria, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Singapore.

For its Third EAHN International Meeting, EAHN has relied upon the organisational efforts of the **Architecture and Design Department of the Politecnico di Torino**. The Polytechnic's history is interwoven with the evolution of Turin as an industrial city. Officially, it was founded in 1906, but its origins go back to the Scuola di Applicazione per gli Ingegneri, established in Turin in 1859, and the Museo Industriale Italiano, founded in 1862 under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Industry. Today, the Politecnico has 31,000 students enrolled in more than 100 courses, of which 22 are Bachelor Degrees; 30 Masters of Science; 10 second-level specialization courses, and 14 PhD programs.

The main venue of the Turin conference is provided by the 17th-century rooms of the **Castello del Valentino**, the present seat of the Architecture Department of the Turin Polytechnic and part of the site "Residences of the Royal House of Savoy" inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997.

Due to the limited capacity of the Salone d'Onore, the Castle's most spacious hall, and in order to accommodate the larger audiences of plenary sessions and lecture keynotes, the organizing committee had to search for alternative locations. What was initially a necessity finally turned into the opportunity of providing the conference with two additional architecturally

remarkable settings: Carlo Mollino's **Teatro Regio** and Pier Luigi Nervi's **Salone B of Torino Esposizioni**.

In order to introduce the richness and variety of Turin's cultural heritage to the conference convenors, a vast array of **study tours** are also offered. From the architectures of Guarini to Mollino's own residence and the buildings of "Italia 61", from the baroque quarters to the remnants of the remarkable industrial plants of Fiat, Michelin and Savigliano, in-depth visits to major buildings and sites have been organized. Museum and archival collections will be also made available to small groups. Themes, such as history of construction, will be explored by focussing on some insider-views, rarely accessible even to the most adverted tourist: Antonelli's complex masonry structure of the Mole Antonelliana, for example. Day-tours have been arranged, to discover Ivrea and the patronage of Adriano Olivetti, and towards some of the highlights of the baroque country.

Financially this event was also made possible through the contribution of local institutions, namely **Compagnia di San Paolo**, **Fondazione CRT** and **Camera di Commercio di Torino**. In particular, thanks to the precious support of the Compagnia di San Paolo in conjunction with the **Urban Center of Turin**, the organizing committee was able to award 15 grants covering registration costs and extra expenses to emerging and younger scholars lacking an established academic or institutional position who take part in the conference either as speakers or chairs.

Along with sessions, keynotes, tours, a bookshop, a conference dinner and a closing reception, a series of additional **side events** are also planned. These include three workshops organised by members of the EAHN special interest groups, a lecture featuring some of the issues at stake at the 2014 Venice Biennale, book launches, a photographic exhibition's special opening, a journal presentation, a Meeting for the preparation of the EAHN themed conference in Belgrade (2015), and two EAHN business meetings.

Eahn 2014 is deeply grateful to the institutions that have offered their financial or institutional support. A special debt is due to the members of the local Executive Committee, to the many colleagues and friends who will lead the 21 Conference and post-Conference tours, and to the volunteer students from the Degree, Master and PhD courses. A last and special thanks goes to the EAHN 2014 Advisory Committee to whom we all owe the scientific quality of this event.

In accordance with the network's spirit of enhancing communication, fostering the exchange of the research outputs and expanding its scholarly community well beyond the limits of the European framework, EAHN 2014 is honoured to host the many researchers who have been willing to participate in the Third International Meeting.

Enjoy the conference and enjoy Turin!

MICHELA ROSSO

Conference General Chair EAHN 2014

Notes

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